

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE YWCA
WOMEN OF INFLUENCE

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, October 18, the YWCA of Essex and West Hudson will honor the winners of their Annual Women of Influence Awards. I ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating these special women of achievement.

Among the honorees is Ms. Antoinette (Tony) O'Flaherty, a dear friend of mine and a person whom I greatly admire for her strong spirit, her generosity, and her tremendous contributions to our community. Ms. O'Flaherty, who holds a degree in economics from Mount Holyoke College, has been a tireless crusader in behalf of the poor and homeless of our community. After a distinguished career in the labor movement and county government where she held a number of positions including public information officer and coordinator for the Essex County Department of Citizen Services, Ms. O'Flaherty devoted her considerable talent and energy to community service. She served as chairperson of the Homeless Task Force established by the Newark Emergency Services for Families. Under her creative leadership, the task force brought together a group of homeless women from hotels and shelters to exchange information and ideas. It also provided a forum for exchanges among service providers, State, county and government representatives. Ms. O'Flaherty has championed the cause of those who are still struggling to succeed in our society, giving a voice to their concerns, hopes and aspirations for the future. Her many volunteer commitments include service on the New Jersey Child Care Advisory; the Newark Preschool Council, Inc.; chairperson of the Newark Emergency Services for Families Homeless Task Force; chair of the Essex County Advisory Board of the Salvation Army; board member of the Isaiah House; board member of the United Labor Agency; member of the League of Women Voters; and chair of the Essex Advisory Board of the Catholic Community Services.

One of her many accomplishments while working with the county was that Ms. O'Flaherty was able to create employment opportunities for qualified minorities who had previously encountered difficulties in breaking barriers. She understood that employment was the key to the economic success of the community. After I was elected to Congress, I was honored that she agreed to serve on my child care task force, sharing her vast knowledge and expertise for the betterment of the 10<G5th congressional district.

Ms. O'Flaherty remains a vibrant force in our community. Just yesterday, she was personally greeted by President Clinton when he arrived at the Metropolitan Baptist Church in Newark, where he discussed an issue close to her heart—child care.

The other Women of Influence honorees who have also distinguished themselves through outstanding professional achievements and dedicated community service are: Susan Jenkins, business, executive at Merck and a member of the YWCA Board; Bernice

Davis, education, past superintendent, Orange Board of Education; Cheryl Hudson, entrepreneur, proprietor/publisher, Just Us Books; Dr. M. Calhoun Thomas, medicine, pediatrician with 21 years of service to the Orange community; Dr. Byrte Johnson, religion, a life of dedication to the ministry of music and youth; Michele Williams, religion, youth Sunday school teacher, and minister of music; Angela Hayes, youth president of Senior Teens of Jack and Jill of America; Harriett Johnson, nursing, assistant executive director, Board of Nursing, Orange.

Mr. Speaker, our community is proud of these women of accomplishment, and I know my colleagues join me in extending congratulations and best wishes for continued success.

HONORING CHARO FOR 30 YEARS
OF OUTSTANDING AND INVALU-
ABLE SERVICE TO THE COMMU-
NITY

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize CHARO Community Development Corporation on the occasion of its 30 Anniversary. For 30 years, CHARO has provided exemplary service to the greater East Los Angeles community.

Incorporated as a non-profit in 1967, Richard Amador, then Chief of Field Operations, Office of the President and Federal Coordinator, President's Committee on Manpower, took a leave of office from the President Johnson administration to start CHARO. CHARO is an innovative and progressive community organization that seeks to develop self sustaining economic development initiatives that create jobs and wealth for the community.

Its first program was initiated to bridge Federal, State, and local government agencies with community based organizations. CHARO developed the Manpower Information and Technical Assistance Services Program (MITAS) to more effectively provide human resource development services to communities. Since its inception it has continued to expand and develop the services it offers to address the needs of the community.

In 1969, CHARO created HEART (Hospital Employment and Related Training Project). HEART was the first program to design and develop new job classifications and on the job training in non-certified positions in health services. This was the first program of its kind to link community residents with training in the health care profession.

In 1970, CHARO was the first non-government entity to develop an On the Job Training (OJT) Program in the private sector with support services called Instant Job. Previously OJT was only available through a trade union. This program expanded the opportunities for the community to learn a trade through apprenticeship.

In 1971, with the assistance from the Carnegie Foundation and the PEDR Corporation, CHARO developed the Institute for Leadership Development, a certificate Management Development Program. Through the certificate program, Hispanic business professional were empowered with the tools to succeed in business and become community leaders.

CHARO developed the first Vocational Training with English as a second language program to serve non-English and limited English proficient clients. VocESL was established in 1972, opening the doors for Latinos, stymied by a language barrier, to gainful employment.

CHARO Industries, established in 1972, addresses the lack of vocational opportunities for the developmentally disabled population. CHARO met this need by establishing the first bilingual/bicultural sheltered workshop for developmentally disabled adults. CHARO contracted assembly, packaging, and fulfillment services with private and public entities.

In 1973, CHARO created the first non-government employment and training center, CHARO Career Center. For over 20 years, the Center has facilitated in the placement of over 10,000 individuals. CHARO has been a leader in fixed price contract services, often placing long term unemployed and those formerly on welfare assistance or recently released from correctional facilities in to full time employment.

To serve families visiting relatives or friends in the hospital, CHARO established in 1976 an emergency drop-in child care center at the U.S.C.—Los Angeles County Medical Center. And in 1978, CHARO created the Child Development Center to address the child care needs of the Los Nietos-Whittier School District. Now serving over 150 pre-school children, the program operates as a child development center, providing educational enhancement exercises and food service program to local low income families. Seeing a rise in latch-key children, the Los Nietos-Whittier School District again called upon CHARO to meet the needs of working families. Using its own funds, in 1983, CHARO established two before and after school care facilities. Both programs provide homework assistance and tutoring programs for the after school youth program.

Addressing the need for affordable housing, in 1989, CHARO developed one of the first complexes in East Los Angeles, Morengo Apartments, comprised of 24 one, two, three, and four bedroom units for low and moderate income families. In 1991, AMCAL, a subsidiary of CHARO, developed Arroyo Villas, a 22 unit complex of one, two, and three bedroom units for very low, low, and moderate income families in Highland Park.

In 1990, the CHARO Industrial Park was established on 2.7 acres in East Los Angeles for economic development. Recognizing that CHARO could provide competitive quality services, employing local residents, CHARO became the first non-profit to contract with Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, providing environmental services and installation of energy and water saving devices in home located in the City of Los Angeles. In 1993, CHARO created the Mid City Property Management to provide design and remodeling services to CHARO subsidiaries and divisions, and property management.

Since 1993, CHARO has trained over 400 Angelenos through the Entrepreneur Training Center. Utilizing the Cornell University/Wharton School of business, CHARO established the first bilingual/bicultural entrepreneur training program, resulting in over 110 new jobs and over 102 new businesses. The Los Angeles Career Center was established in 1994 as one of the first One Stop Employment and